DEMOCRAT.

E. R. BIOSSAT,.....EDITOR

OFFICE—CORNER OF
SECOND & JACKSON STS.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE TOWN

Our Agents.

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ALEXANDRIA, LA.

WEDNESDAY, - - OCT. 17, 1877.

NOTICE.

We have many subscribers in arrears—some of them to a considerable amount; we have reminded them often of the fact, and every Democrat they receive costs us just so much cash, for there is no credit in the printing business. Again we ask all of them to come to our relief, as this is the season of the year when they all can pay. Though what each one owes is small in amount, could easily be paid, still the aggregate is large, and is justly our due.

—The Jetties constructed over the bar, below Town, are practically a complete success and a great help to navigation. That bar, previous to the work, was the worst and most obstructive on the river, calling only for two feet scant, and now the heave of the lead sings out four feet full. Surely, an interested people must remember this kind of work and enterprise on the part of the Pool Line, and must accord to them great credit for this new born zeal and energy in making a dead low river, in a particular spot, navigable to all their boats.

—Several issues back of the Democrat, we stated that our butchers were retailing fresh beef at ten cents a pound, and a few days back that jolly butcher, Sackman, halted us about it and really convinced us that we had committed a grave, but unintentionable error against his fraternity. So we take it all back, and now state that they are all retailing choice beef at only eight cents a pound, which leaves them a fine margin for solid profits, and that they all intend to serve the public at these rates.

—We learn that a number of our young Israelite friends, on last Sabbath, were convened together, and organized a "Young Men's Hebrew Association," the cardinal principles of which are Sociability and Friendship. The following members were chosen officers:

Ben. Weil, President.
J. Caspar, Vice-President.
Louis Malachowsky, Secretary.
C. P. Oswald, Treasurer.

—The members of Rapides Grove Lodge No. 1, a colored Association of our Town, gave a Ball at the Town Hall, on last Thursday night, and al. passed off pleasantly and successfully.

—The yellow fever is still raging at Fernandina—two Sisters of Mercy have died there with the fell scourge, but two others of these sainted women have gone to take their places.

—Sam. Pincus and young Jake Irving, both our advertisers, have separate and distinct stalls in the Market House, and are getting their sharr of patronage for their fine roasts and juicy steaks.

—On Tuesday, November 6, ten States will hold elections. They are New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

—Start, Mr. Sanford's brown filly, 3 years old, has won the first Welter handicap at the New Market second October meeting, beating twelve competitors. The betting was twelve to one against Start.

—Old "Antonio," our good old fellow-townsman, has lost a fine, gold bracelet, and will give a suitable reward for its delivery to him.

—Governor Nicholls has gone North on a health tour. Lieutenant Governor Wiltz now wields the *baton* of State.

—You have trouble to gather autumn leaves in Texas, because all the best trees are in daily use to cure men of horse stealing.

—The debt of the United States, less cash in the Treasury, is now $2,095,266,575.

PLAIN TALK.

We have grown old in our journalistic duties, and the older we get we find from mistaken experience, that our contributors, our friends and patrons, are losing sight of the duties of a journalist. Our paper politically is a Democratic one in the true sense of the honored term, and we never deviate from that path in allowing its tenets attacked, but still it is a paper devoted to the true interests of the Parish, and has friends and patrons, who have a right to disagree with us in many views, and further a right to the free use of our columns to make known their sentiments, their opinions and their ideas of men and measures, who are entrusted with public duties in our Parish. This, we hope, is a plain answer to our communicant, "Fair Play," assuring him that "One of the People," whose communication he finds fault with is a gentleman, a large tax payer, a life-long patron and friend of ours, and had a perfect right to the use of our columns, and moreover, is perfectly responsible for his acts and words therein expressed. But this does not argue, that we coincide with him in all he writes, though we have great regard for his opinions. None of us are free from imperfections, from prejudice, and it is only by a comparison and expression of our views, that we can arrive at some safe conclusion.

Again for the thousandth time, repeating and reasserting our honest opinion, our firm conviction of the grand and arch infamies, forgeries and perjuries of the Returning Board, which have forced on the people of this country a fraudulent President, who in turn has rewarded every member of the Board, as well as its Secretary with fat offices in the New Orleans Custom House, we shall now proceed to have our say, our authentic talk about the main intention of both communications from "One of the People" and "Fair Play."

We shall preface these few plain words with the expression, that we write knowingly on the subject, and do it purely to set the public right towards a good official, who we believe and know to be correct and honestly disposed to settle with the State for every dollar he has collected.—Too much, a great deal too much injustice has been done, thus far in this matter, to Mr. Burgess, the late Tax Collector, and now that the opportunity has been forced on us, we shall certainly see that justice and fair play is extended to him, and that he be judged by his acts, his own official acts, and that the herculean sins of the Returning Board, because he has marital links existing with its head, be not permitted to soil his robes or prejudice his case. In words as plain as language can convey them, and as plain as type can print them, we know and we here affirm it, that Mr. Burgess has tendered, and anxiously offered a full and fair settlement of his collections to the Auditor, and that the Auditor was willing to make that settlement, considering it just and ample, but that red tape, honeycombed with punctillous prejudice and foolish business traits of another Bureau of the State Department thwarted this settlement and prevented it. Surely Mr. Burgess could not have done more, offered less, and we now know and are convinced he is not in the least responsible for the childish turn the matter has been permitted to take against him.

In the last few weeks, we learn, that suit in the District Court has been ordered against him and his sureties, and that it has been instituted by the District Attorney, and such being the case we believe public opinion in the matter, which in this article we desire to post as to the true facts, should be stayed and let the State here, through its efficient District Attorney, get as good terms out of Mr. Burgess judicially as he offered in person to the Auditor. But, above all, let it rest on its real merits, and stop all talk of prosecution and persecution. Deal fair and rigidly and rightfully with one whose acts demand justice and fairness.

—Every member of the Returning Board, their Secretary, the notorious Able, with many kinfolks, and a few special pets thrown in for *lagniappe*, have snug and paying positions in the Custom House. We have an idea that the United States Senate will soon lift some of them out of their official boots.

—The old man of the Democrat, on Saturday evening, received a nice pumpkin pie from a sweet and lovely girl, and had a delicious repast of it.

—The Fire Boys, who so successfully run and handle "Lizzie," had a wash on Wednesday.

SCHOOL MATTERS.

A correspondent of ours, a few weeks ago gently overhauled our of ficient, and we believe well meaning School Board, about publishing their doings, and from what we learn our devoted self was hauled over the coals in no very complimentary terms about it. Well, we are used to these unmerited criticisms and can afford to smile at them, if the Board can afford to do it at the cost of public opinion; for be it known that well meant and well directed public opinion is master of us all.

We should not have alluded to this matter again had not a recent official publication in the New Orleans Democrat upset all we, and the public had heard, as rumors only, of the Board's settlement with Mr. E. J. Barrett, the late Treasurer. And right here the shoe pinches the oversight and neglect of the Board in not letting the public know of their acts, and right here the recent publication fixes all into chaos, and gives the unposted public a chance to carp, to grumble and to find fault. For one we are free to state, that though this publication mystifies things, yet we feel convinced that the late Treasurer has made a fair and honest settlement with the present School Board, and that when the matter is properly sifted all will be right.

But as there exists in this official publication in the New Orleans Democrat, and the settlement of the late Treasurer, a serious discrepency, we feel bound to publish it, and give an opportunity to the parties interested to explain this mystery of figures.

Here is the discrepency in a few words: the late Treasurer settled with the Board here, so we learn, and brought the Board in debt over a thousand dollars, and that official publication states that for the Parish of Rapides the sum of $15,936,92 were her receipts of school monies, and that only the sum of $10,784,13 was disbursed. Here is the discrepency unaccounted for of the sum of $5,152,79. That master of us all, public opinion, demands that this serious difference in figures be explained and rectified

COMMUNICATION.

Editor Democrat—

A communication from "One of the People," in the last number of your paper, has in some degree surprised many of your patrons, among whom I number myself for many long years, and I must protest against a certain portion of it, which was intended to reflect, and to reflect unjustly, on the late Collector of taxes in tis Parish. That portion of it about the Returning Board, I can find no fault with, but on the contrary endorse every word, because their crime is a fixed one, and has passed into fraudulent action and government, and every man in this broad land has been touched by it.

But, Mr. Editor, I really think, and express this thought to you candidly and freely, that the ungracious lick at the late Collector of this Parish is unpardonable, unjust, unmerited, and should never have been printed in your columns, for the insinuation about the Collector is really in bad taste, and to say the least of it, unfair and unmanly. I could easily prove all this assertion, but as the matter has been forced, through error and prejudice, in the Courts, I shall forbear, and will not trespass further on your spare columns, and ask one and all to wait for the wagon, and my word for it, the Collector will come out with clean hands as an honest and faithful official.

Fair Play.

—William Owens who was convicted of murder, without capital punishment, at the last term of the District Court, and who has since been granted a new trial, has now applied to the District Judge for a change of *venue*. Judge Blackman having recused himself in the case referred the application to Robt. P. Hunter, Esq., who originally tried the case, and granted the new trial. The case will come up, therefore, before Judge Hunter, acting Judge in place of the recused Court.

—Jack Goulden, Alexandria's favorite and popular house and sign painter, has complained to us that the *Gazette*, of Saturday, has entirely misrepresented his intentions in a business point of view, and asks us to state that he is not going to be absent from Alexandria until January. He is here at his post and ready for all jobs in his line, and will be pleased to attend to all work entrusted to him.

—The C. H. Durfee, the Packet, in place of the Bart. Able, has been thrown out of regular time by the cussed low water, but yet makes weekly trips, and will soon wheel into her regular leaving day. Since our last she has been here, with a good trip and departing down from here with what cotton she could take out on the water.

—Thanks to the W. J. Behan for our two regular packages of papers.

OHIO DEMOCRATIC.

The recent State election in Ohio, the giant State of the West, the third State of the Union, the home of Mr. Hayes, has resulted in a grand, sweeping and complete victory for the Democratic party. The issues were fairly drawn up, the Democrats in the contest were aggressive and plainly out-spoken about the Returning Board-Centennial fraud, and fought every inch of the grand contest on principles, Democratic principles, and have come out of the contest with victory, grand and substantial, gracing all their banners.

This Democratic victory is, we repeat, a decided and thorough one. We have elected a Democratic Governor by over 30,000 majority; have a majority of 15 in the Senate and a majority of over 25 in the House. Just think of it, a Democratic majority on joint ballot of over 40! Thus we secure, beyond doubt, a United States Senator in place of Mr. Hayes' bosom friend, Stanley Matthews, and a worthy Democratic companion in the United States Senate for the old veteran and tried Democrat, Allen G. Thurman. It sounds like old Democratic music at that, to record the great State of Ohio with two Democratic United States Senators, and her State Government and both branches of her Legislature in the hands of the grand and true old Democracy.

A Word to the Unemployed.—Our attention has been called to a new cooking utensil, recently invented, which makes baking a pleasure, instead of a dreaded necessity; the inventor of which has conferred an everlasting blessing upon every housekeeper. We refer to the Patent Centennial Cake and Bread Pan, with which, by simply raising a hook, you can remove the sides of the pan from the cake instantly, without breaking or injuring it in the least, thus enabling you to ice and frost it while warm. To remove the tube in the center, insert a knife in the slot in the top of the tube, and simply give it a half turn, and it will drop out. It is also provided with a slide on the bottom, so that, when you remove the tube you can close the hole, making a pan with plain bottom, for baking jelly and plain cakes, pudding, bread, etc., thus practically giving you two pans for the price of one. The Centennial Cake Pan is highly recommended by the ladies as being the best and most convenient pan ever introduced. They are made of Russia iron, are more durable, and will bake your cakes more evenly and a much nicer brown than you can bake them in the old-fashioned tin cake pans. These goods are sold exclusively through agents to families, and every housekeeper should by all means have them. A splendid opportunity is offered to some reliable lady or gentleman canvasser of this Parish to secure the agency for a pleasant and profitable business. For terms, territory, etc., write to L. E. Brown & Co., Nos. 214 and 216 Elm street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

—An old man about 55 years of age, name unknown, but who was remembered here by some of our people, as a Confederate scout during the war, was found strolling around Town, destitute and sick, and taken into the Exchange Hotel by our Mayor and some four or five of our good Samaritans. His sickness proved to be a fatal one, for the poor unfortunate died a lew hours after receiving a good resting place at the hands of his stranger friends. He was decently buried at the Parish's expense, and he was followed to God's Acre in Pineville by a few big hearted and benevolent of our Town people.

—A young man named Bœhner, the ginner of the Marsh Brothers, met with an unfortunate and serious accident, while attending to his duties on Saturday. His left hand and arm were caught in the saws of the gin, and were considerably sawed and torn up. He has proved himself under this heavy affliction to be a brave and courageous man, and is standing his sufferings like a hero. No fears are entertained of his ultimate recovery, but he may lose the active use of the crushed and bruised limb.

—The Crown Prince of Prussia is now put down as an opponent of Bismarck. He has lately had the honesty and statesmanlike foresight to declare that he would favor, in the interests of peace, the surrender of Alsace and Lorraine to France, in consideration of an indemnity worthy of the concession and the dismantling of the fortress, which the Germans themselves have so materially strengthened, on the French side of the Rhine.

—Governor Hendricks, Vice-President elect of the United States, returned home from Europe just in time to hear the Democratic thunder from Ohio, and hear her Democratic yeomanry assert in thunder tones, not to be mistaken, that the home of Mr. Hayes don't confirm his fraudulent, Returning Board title to the Presidency. It must have been cheering, sweet music to our honored and gallant Hendricks.

TOBIAS ON A RAMBLE.

Alexandria,
Oct. 15, 1877.

Dear Democrat—

I have just returned from a rather extensive ramble through the greater portion of our grand old Parish and a part of Grant, and thinking that it may be entertaining to your many readers to know what I saw and heard, I propose to give them the benefit of my week's travel.

Cheneyville and the crops.

With a nice pair of horses and buggy from Col. McGinnis' complete stables, I started last Monday for Cheneyville which place I reached after an easy drive of thirty miles. I noticed the crops closely as I passed, and I am sure I never saw finer cane nor better prospects for a sugar crop from the plant cane, than are to be seen all along the road. The only trouble is that none of the planters have any stubble, and the crops will be short because they will have to save their seed cane for next year out of their plant cane of this year. I think the cotton crop of the Parish, and I have seen it nearly all, both in the hills and on the low lands, will be more than a good half crop. A great deal of it will be wasted as it is all open, and the hands can not pick it out fast enough to save it all.

Everthing looks flourishing around Cheneyville; the people are in good spirits, and there is a happy, contented look about them in remarkable contrast to the uneasy and unsettled appearance they used to have in the days of radical rule. Indeed, I noticed this to be the case wherever I have been in this Parish. Improvements are being made, ditches dug, fences put up, and the bayou places about Cheneyville are taking on somewhat of their *ante bellum* appearance. Four years of peace and quiet will make our bayou lands, what they once were "the fairest that e'er the sun shone on." Nowhere in the world are to be found a more hospitable and generous hearted people than those around Cheneyville, and in these qualities they are rivalled by all our people wherever one may go. One result of my trip has been to confirm me in the pride I have always felt in my native Parish, and like the old Romans, I carry that pride with me everywhere.

Colfax again.

Returning from Cheneyville and staying one night at home, I started off again on Wednesday for Colfax and the "Free State of Grant" which place I reached late that evening, having some more business before the Court of Lorenzo Smith the next day. I had said in my last that there were but eleven houses, and as I drove in I counted them to be sure that I was right. I found that I had unintentionally wronged Colfax out of two houses, and I desire to make the *amende honorable*. I mentioned my plan to abolish the Parish to some of the citizens, and I find them opposed to it. This I was prepared to expect. They are, however, willing to swap us Big Creek for the neck of Rapides on this side of Red River that runs up opposite Colfax. And they say that that portion of Rapides neither votes nor pays taxes. I call the attention of the Assessor and Collector to that statement. All around the town is a cotton patch which comes up to the very back doors of the houses. I am still for blotting out Grant Parish, and giving its territory back to the parishes from which it was taken. The formation of the Parish was one of the worst jobs of radicalism, and I hope to see our next Legislature undo the work, and can discover no other reason for their not doing it, than that it may injure the private interests of a very few persons. The people of the hills get their supplies and bring their cotton to Pineville, and it will benefit them.

A la Jenkins.

Coming down from Grant I found myself just in time to attend a party given by the young gentlemen of Cotile and the River, at the residence of Mrs. Patrick, and your correspondent having gotten himself up in style, started for the handsome pinewoods residence aforesaid in company with a gay and merry crowd of young folks who were all full of eager anticipation. I found Mr. Sam Henarie's String Band on hand to furnish the music for the occasion, and soon the belles and beaux commenced to fill Mrs. Patrick's spacious parlors. It is seldom that Mr. Jenkins ever finds gathered together so many fair women and brave men as graced this occasion with their presence. As I gazed upon them in the giddy whirls of the waltz, and the stately grace of the lancers, I again felt proud of our Parish, that can beat all creation for pretty girls and gallant men. The dancing was kept up until daylight, and the boys went home with the girls in the morning.

Spring Creek Camp Meeting.

The Camp Meeting at Spring Creek being in full blast, I took that way to come home from Cotile, and found a large crowd assembled on the Camp Ground from all directions for thirty miles around. The grounds are well chosen, and many persons have built small houses or tents, as they call them, into which they move with their families during the meeting. The ministry was well represented by Revs. Cooper, Parvin, Billingsby, White, Scurlock and Keener, with perhaps some others whose names I did not learn, and they were ably assisted by a very efficient board of Deacons or Supervisors whose business it is to see to the order of the Camp Grounds. Great interest was taken in the services, and to judge by the numbers of those who went up to be prayed for, the present meeting will be a very successful one. A noticeable feature of the Camp Meeting is the evident earnestness of everybody. It is not hard to trace up the influence of the annual meetings on the community, and there is nowhere in this Parish a more orderly, quiet and law abiding neighborhood in this or any other Parish, than that of Spring Creek. The effects of a good government are clearly to be seen there, as they are wherever I have been, and one sees new homes, new fences and increasing evidences of prosperity and content everywhere on Spring Creek.—They were expecting the Camp Meeting to last until Wednesday, if not all this week. A trip to the Camp Grounds is well worth the trouble of getting there.

Spring Creek and the School Board.

I heard some complaint about there not being a representative from all that section of the Parish on the School Board, and as it is one of the largest and most thickly settled portions of the Parish, having four hundred voters as they tell me, and as many or more school children, it seems to me that the complaint is well founded. I don't know who is responsible for the neglect, but it ought to be corrected at once, if possible. The parents out there take great interest in educational matters, and while they are to some extent well provided for by the present Board and have efficient teachers, they are entitled by their numbers and influence to direct representation on the School Board. I merely give you their cause of complaint in their own words, and hope that the mere statement of it will induce somebody to see to the matter.

I find that the Democrat is extensively read all over this Parish, and the approval of its position upon the questions which have been before the people is unanimous. It is regarded everywhere as a good and true home paper, and, Mr. Editor, I congratulate you upon the hold you have in the good opinion of the people for whom you have worked so zealously and well.

Yours Truly,
Tobias.

THE JURY LAW.

The new Jury law, passed at the last session of the Legislature, and which is now in force, contains the following two sections, which we deem of sufficient interest to publish:

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, etc., That it shall be the duty of each person drawn and summoned, to attend as a juror punctually and for the time for which he is so drawn; and the District Judge shall have the right to enforce said attendance by a fine on the delinquent juror of not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars and imprisonment in the parish jail for not more than seven days, or both, in his discretion. The jurors who attend and serve shall be exempt from road duty, during the year in which they shall serve as jurors; and those jurors who live more than seven miles from the courthouse, and no others, shall be entitled to demand and receive from the parish treasury one dollar per diem for each day's actual attendance upon the court; and the several Clerks of the District Courts shall, upon the demand of each of such jurors at the close of his term of service, issue to him a certificate of attendance for the amount to which he may be entitled.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, etc., That in all civil cases in which a jury may be prayed for and allowed, it shall be the duty of the party praying for the jury to deposit with the Clerk of the court twelve dollars as jury costs, and no jury shall be ordered in any civil cases unless the said cost is paid; provided, that in cases in which the Judge ex officio shall order a jury in a civil case, the plaintiff shall advance and pay to the Clerk the Jury costs of twelve dollars, which shall finally be taxed as costs against the party cast in the suit.

In case the plaintiff does not advance the costs so ordered, the cause shall be continued to the next term of the court; and should he fail to advance the said costs by the next term of the court, the Judge shall dismiss the case as in case of nonsuit. At the close of each jury term of the District Court, the Clerk shall pay over the total civil jury tax for the term to the Parish Treasurer, and this fund shall be expended for no other purpose than that for which it was deposited; provided, nothing herein shall be so construed as to require by any party payment of such jury costs more than once.

—Honest John Sherman and his 750 Washington clerks, who went to Ohio to vote have come to grief. The old war horse of Democracy, Thurman, is now strutting around smilingly with the scalp of John Sherman dangling at his belt.

—Warmoth and his bride have returned to the United States from their European bridal tour.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Washington,
Oct. 8, 1877.

Editor Democrat—

The first number of the *National Union* was issued here on the 4th. It is a daily paper and has a thrifty and stable look. Its somewhat pretentious title may deceive some into a belief that it is not a party paper, but the contents of the first issue will speedily dispel any such delusion. It is simply a Republican paper supporting the Administration in all its measures, but clearly not looking beyond the party. Its publishers are wiser than other friends of the Administration, who expect to see made from the ruins of existing parties a "Hayes party." The paper does not assume airs of organship, and has in its first issue no Government advertisements. A few days since, A. M. Clapp, late Government printer, assumed control of the National Republican, and will run it as an advocate of "genuine republicanism," meaning in opposition to the Administration. Thus both sections of the party are represented, and quite ably, at the National Capital. Long may both papers live to extend confusion in the party.

Prosecuting officers of the Government here have taken courage from having convicted Ex-Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Sawyer of having knowingly paid a fraudulent claim, and are now pushing the trial of one Witowski and a Pennsylvania Ex-Congressman for presenting and securing payment of another such claim. The good effect of punishing parties guilty of these things is apparent. The frequency with which fraudulent claims are known to be presented and paid raises in the minds of officials and the public unjust suspicions as to other and more deserving ones.

It is also said the Grand Jury of the District will present one or more Army Officers for fraud in securing payment, for a consideration, of a large amount of money to parties for a sham article for the preservation of Army clothing. Donn Piatt of the Sunday Capital, is the accuser, and Quartermaster Rufus Ingalls is the party accused. Piatt was in the "ring" and says he did not get his share of the stealings. These things with a forgery case in the Interior Department, and a rumored defalcation in our Post Office, of which no particulars are known, and the starting of a new Republican paper, are horrors enough for one letter. Let us turn to pleasanter subjects.

The streets of Washington are already filling up with the innumerable caravan that precedes the coming of the great body of Congressmen. Extraordinary interest is felt in the next session, and the comers are more numerous than usual. More members are engaging houses than at any time since the war. There will be many "open houses" this winter. The lobbyist will be here. The old politician will be here from every section. The Washington property holder will more nearly meet the interest on his mortgages than for many years, and here and there, let us hope, a man will be able to pay his taxes.

Of private enterprises to come before Congress the Texas Pacific Railroad will have the lion's share of attention. Government aid to that road will be advocated and opposed by leading men of both parties. His health permitting, A. H. Stephens will assume the lead in the House, of those favoring the enterprise. The wide-spread opposition to any aid whatever will, it is said, be in a measure neutralized by the submission of a plan with less objectionable features than in any previous scheme. This seems to be due to the Government, if it is to grant aid, and to be good policy on the part of the Company, as none of the old fashioned Union and Central Pacific plunder bills, would have a moment's chance of success.

The Mexican lobby will be here—some of is here already. I have before tried to speak of this corrupt combination as it deserves, but words fail. It brings Mexicans and Indians into Texas to plunder and murder our citizens, it sends outlaws and adventurers into Mexico to provoke strife, all for the purpose of provoking war between the two nations. And the prizes expected are the mining wealth of Northern Mexico and the enforced payment by Mexico of uncounted millions of bogus "claims" of speculators. Congress will give to this mad and wicked scheme the consideration it deserves.

Secretary Sherman's mis-statement of the public debt for September shows a reduction of about four millions.

NEMO.